AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended): A metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising:

a positive electrode;

a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and

a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder,

wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a substance to the negative electrode and/or electrolyte, said substance being soluble in the electrolyte, said substance being at least one member selected from the group consisting of a ~~metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, wherein said metal chloride is a~~ cobalt chloride ~~and/or~~ and a nickel chloride; and

the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

5. (Currently Amended): A metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising:

a positive electrode;

a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and

a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder,

wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a substance to the negative electrode and/or the electrolyte, said substance being soluble in the electrolyte, said substance being at least one member selected from the group consisting of a ~~metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, wherein said metal iodide is a~~ cobalt iodide ~~and/or~~ and a nickel iodide; and

the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

6. (Currently Amended): A metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising:

a positive electrode;

a separator impregnated with an electrolyte; and

a negative electrode comprising hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder,

wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder has a layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide formed on the surface thereof, and a catalytic metal or metal compound is dotted on said layer of hydrogen-absorbing alloy oxide in a granular state by adding a substance to the negative electrode and/or the electrolyte, said substance being soluble in the

electrolyte, said substance being at least one member selected from the group consisting of a ~~metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, wherein said metal sulfide is a~~ cobalt sulfide ~~and/or~~ and a nickel sulfide; and

the proportion of said substance to said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is restricted within the range of 0.1 to 2.5 wt%.

7. (Previously Presented): The metal hydride alkaline storage cell of claim 4, 5, or 6 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is selected from the group consisting of rare-earth element based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Fe based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, and Mg-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

8-17. (Canceled)